

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method used in networks, comprising a server  
5 connected with a plurality of terminals that can  
request the server to rent an electrical document  
for a specific period of time and the server storing  
the electrical document to a storage device of the  
terminal, for controlling the termination date of  
10 electrical documents comprising the following  
steps:

users loading an application program in the  
terminal to set a specific storing position for  
the electrical document;  
15 the server encrypting the current date, the  
termination date, and plaintext of the  
electrical document to a corresponding  
ciphertext, transferring the ciphertext to the  
terminal, storing the ciphertext in the specific  
20 storing position of the storage device, and  
recording information of the storing position  
when the terminal requests the server to rent  
the electrical document;  
25 the application program matching whether the  
current storing position is the as same as the  
recorded storing position and deciphering the  
ciphertext to the original plaintext of the  
electrical document for users intending to read  
the electrical document;  
30 the application program continually updating  
and storing the current date in the storing  
position during the time users read the

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electrical document; and the application program examining whether the current date exceeds the termination date and denying access to the electrical document if the current date has exceeded the termination date.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the information of the storing position is under encryption.

10 3. The method of claim 1 wherein when the terminal requests the server to rent the electrical documents for a specific period of time, the termination date is valid if the current date has not exceeded the termination date.

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4. The method of claim 3 wherein the application program informs users the electrical document is expired when the current date has exceeded the termination date.

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5. The method of claim 1 wherein when total reading hours exceeds a predetermined reading hours, the application program denies access to the electrical document.

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6. The method of claim 5 wherein the application program informs users the electrical document is expired when the total reading hours exceeds the predetermined reading hours.

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7. A network for controlling a termination date of an electrical document comprising a server connected

with a plurality of terminals, each terminal comprising an application program and a storage device and the ability to request the server to rent the electrical document; the server comprising a  
5 rent control center for encrypting the current date, the termination date, and plaintext of the electrical document to a corresponding ciphertext, sending the ciphertext to the terminal, storing in a specific storing position of the storage device,  
10 and recording information of the storing position; the application program comprising:

15 a storing position checking module for matching whether the current storing position is the same as the recorded storing position and deciphering the ciphertext to the original plaintext of the electrical document for users intending to read the electrical document;  
20 a time imprinting module for continually updating and storing the current date in the storing position during the time users read the electrical document; and  
25 a termination date examining module for examining whether the current date exceeds the termination date and denying access to the electrical document if the current date exceeds the termination date.

- 30 8. The network of claim 7 wherein the information of the storing position is under encryption.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein when the terminal requests the server to rent the electrical document

for a specific period of time, the termination date is valid if the current date has not exceeded the termination date.

5 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the application  
program informs users the electrical document is  
expired when the current date exceeds the  
termination date.

10 11. The method of claim 7 wherein when total reading  
hours exceeds a predetermined reading hours, the  
application program denies access to the electrical  
document.

15 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the application  
program informs users the electrical document is  
expired when the total reading hours exceeds the  
predetermined reading hours.